

Pest Update (August 12, 2009)

Vol. 7, no. 26

John Ball, Forest Health Specialist, Extension Forester

Email: john_ball@sdstate.edu

Phone: 605-688-4737

Samples sent to: John Ball
Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks
Rm 201, Northern Plains Biostress Lab
North Campus Lane
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007-0996

Available on the net at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/Forestry/educational-information/Pest-Alert-Archives.htm>.

Any treatment recommendations, including those identifying specific pesticides, are for the convenience of the reader. Pesticides mentioned in this publication are generally those that are most commonly available to the public in South Dakota and the inclusion of a product shall not be taken as an endorsement or the exclusion a criticism regarding effectiveness. Please read and follow all label instructions and the label is the final authority for a product's use on a particular pest or plant. Products requiring a commercial pesticide license are occasionally mentioned if there are limited options available. These products will be identified as such but it is the reader's responsibility to determine if they can legally apply any product identified in this publication.

In this issue

pg

E-samples

Willow scab.....	2
Wooly oak gall.....	2

Information request

Pollination requirement for fruit trees.....	3
--	---

Samples received

Beadle County (walnut pouch gall).....	3
Brown County (spruce on poorly drained soils).....	3
Campbell County (Dutch elm disease).....	3
Clark County (declining pines).....	3
Dewey County (mulberry identification).....	3
Hand County (herbicide drift on spruce?).....	4
Jackson County (eastern poplar buprestid).....	4
Jerauld County (fireblight on cotoneaster).....	4
Lake County (wooly oak gall).....	4
Minnehaha County (declining ash).....	4
Walworth County (ash bark beetle, weed identification and other issues).....	4
Yankton County (pin oak chlorosis, pine wilts and other issues).....	5

E-samples

I have received number pictures and questions regarding willow scab (*Venturia saliciperda*). This is a very common foliage disease that appears in late summer on willow trees across the state. The disease is closely related to



apple and pear scab and the typical symptoms are discolored and falling leaves as well as tip dieback. This disease has similar symptoms to black canker (*Glomerella miyabeana*), a willow twig disease that can also cause the leaves to wilt and the shoot tips to die back. The two diseases are difficult to separate but the willow scab infected leaves will usually have “tufts” of spores on the underside of the leaf, generally along the midvein. These two diseases are

often found in association with one another and when they occur together the disease is just simply called willow blight. These two diseases are common problems when the spring weather is cool and moist, a condition typically of much of the state this year.

The wooly oak gall is appearing on bur oaks across the state. The wooly



oak gall is a fuzzy white to tan globose to elongated gall that forms on the underside of the leaves. It is caused by the feeding activity of *Callifhytus lanata*, a small cynipid wasp. The galls do not harm the tree and photosynthesis is not disrupted. The galls usually appear on a tree for several years then disappear for another eight or ten year before the cycle begins again. There is no control for this interesting insect.

Information request

I had a good question on fruit tree pollination that I will share with everyone. A landowner wanted to plant an orchard of apples, sour cherries, peaches, pears and apricot. The landowner was wondering if mixing a lot of species in an orchard would cause cross-pollination. The short answer is no. The different species will not cross-pollinate one another so there is no concern about have an apple that tastes like a peach! However, a number of these species do require two different cultivars to pollinator each other as they will not accept their own pollen. Apples, pears and apricots (but for apricots only if you are planting ‘Moongold’ and ‘Sungold’) require two different cultivars for fruit set. Peaches and sour cherries will accept their own pollen so only one tree is needed.

Samples received

Beadle County (extension)

What is causing this deformed growth on the walnut leaflets?

What is causing this deformed growth on the walnut leaflets?

This is certainly the year for galls! These curled, cupped and otherwise deformed leaflets are called black walnut pouch galls and are the work of an eriophyid mite. There is no effective control for this mite and the problem seems to come and go so perhaps next summer the leaves will be just fine.

Brown County (extension)

What might be wrong with this spruce? The needles are discolored. The tree is in an area with a high water table.

What might be wrong with this spruce? The needles are discolored. The tree is in an area with a high water table.

I think you hit on the problem. Spruce, particularly Colorado blue spruce, does not perform well in poorly drained soils and usually shows its displeasure with such environments by having the needles turn a pale yellow and eventually red before casting.

Campbell County (extension)

Is this Dutch elm disease?

Yes, the twigs had the brown streaking in the sapwood which is a very good indicator of the disease. Culturing obviously is the positive indicator and these branches contained the fungus.

Clark County (extension)

What is the problem?

Here is a sample from Don's pines.



This is diplodia tip blight, a fungal disease that results in browning, often hanging, needles and stunted shoots. This disease really "bloomed" this year with trees that appeared to express symptoms through the tree rather suddenly. The disease can be treated with fungicide applications in the spring but trees often seem to survive the disease, so for windbreaks and shelterbelt sprays are rarely attempted. The fungicide, usually one containing chlorothalonil, must be applied just

as the buds swell in the spring and then repeated for two more times; once after the needles fully expand and again 10 days later. This will only manage the disease, not eliminate it, so annual applications may be necessary.

Dewey County (extension)

Please identify this tree that was found in a shelterbelt.

Please identify this tree that was found in a shelterbelt.

This is white mulberry (*Morus alba*). The birds have "planted" it statewide.

Hand County (extension)
this blue spruce?

What might possibly be wrong with

There were no signs or symptoms that I could attribute to any insect, mite or pathogen. However, the deformed needles at the tips are a common symptom associated with herbicide drift.

Jackson County (conservation district) **What might be boring into these young cottonwood stems?**

This was an interesting find. The insect was the eastern poplar buprestid (*Descarpentriesina cyanipes*). This insect can be found in cottonwoods and poplars throughout much of the state despite the name “eastern.” This buprestid typically infests stems that are about ½-inch diameter, though it can attack trees and branches larger than 3-inches. The adults are out in mid-summer and can be controlled with a bark application of an insecticide containing permethrin. However, they usually infested dying or stressed trees so there are probably other problems with this tree.

Jerauld County (extension)

What is killing this cotoneaster?

The cotoneaster is infected with fireblight, a very common disease of cotoneaster. The easiest way to manage the disease in this shrub is to prune the infected stems back to 2-inches tall during the winter months. The plants quickly grow back the following summer and usually disease free.

Lake County (extension)
oak leaves?

What are these fuzzy things on the

This is the wooly oak gall, see under E-samples for more information.

Minnehaha County (extension)
ash trees in the parking lot?

What is causing the decline of these

Parking lots are tough environments where trees are subjected to de-icing salts, limited soil moisture, compaction, heat and a number of other stresses. It is almost normal to find dying trees in these locations, particularly parking islands. The trees were also infested with the banded ash borer and this insect usually infested dead and dying wood. There is no magical cure for these trees – it is just a tough location. The best solution is placing mulch around the base of the trees – at least 3 feet out – to reduce mechanical injury, limit de-icing salt use and water during dry spells.

Walworth County (extension)

What is causing all these small holes in this ash tree? They have already cut down the tree.

The small, almost bb size, holes are the emergence holes to the ash bark beetle. This is a frequent insect inhabiting dying ash branches and trees. The beetles are rarely the reason the tree is declining but are merely attacking a tree that is already beginning to decline due to other stresses.

Walworth County (extension)
flower bed?

What is this plant that came up in the

This is pale smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) according to David Graper, our herbaceous plant expert.

Walworth County (extension)

What killed this peashrub?

Peashrubs have few problems in our state so it is unusual to even receive a sample. The sample showed wilted and shriveled leaves and I suspect the problem is further down the stem. It might be nectria canker; this is one of the diseases I do see on this shrub. You might look for cankers or lesions further down the stems. If you do find the canker, the best control is to prune the shrub back to within 3-inches of the ground this winter. They usually come back disease-free.

Yankton County (extension)
maple?

What is this disease on the “cutleaf”

This is not a maple but an eastern pin oak (*Quercus palustris*). The scorching is due to chlorosis, an iron deficiency from the lack of available iron in the alkaline soil. The eastern pin oaks I see around Yankton are usually as yellow as this one! It is not a tree we recommend planting due to this frequent problem.

What are these specks on the oak leaves?

These are one of the many leaf galls that are occurring on bur oaks this year. Many of these galls due to the activity of one of the hundreds of small cynipid wasps that feed on oaks and other hardwoods. They rarely harm the tree and no control measures are recommended.

Is this mildew on Harold’s tree?

Yes, and you should see what it looks like after being in a moist plastic bag for several days! If possible he needs to improve air circulation around this plant and possibly increase sunlight. These environmental changes are best accomplished through pruning.

Yankton County (extension)

What is wrong with Brian’s pine tree?

The Scotch pine needles are turning yellow and wilting.

These symptoms described (and the pictures sent) appear very similar to pine wilt disease. This disease, caused by a nematode, is responsible for the loss of thousands of Austrian and Scotch pines in the states further south and east of South Dakota. This disease has previously been identified in the Yankton area though is more frequently found in the southwestern part of our state. I would like to see the tree in another week or two to collect wood samples.